



# PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA

## Marine National Monument

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 25, 2011

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **Coast Guard Patrol Flight Reveals Extent of Tsunami Damage to Papahānaumokuākea**

Tens of thousands of tropical sea birds nesting in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) were washed away during the tsunami on March 11, 2011. None of the workers stationed at Midway Atoll or at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources field camps on other atolls were injured; they've been dealing not only with the loss of wildlife but with cleaning up facilities and equipment damaged when water washed over the low-lying atolls of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). A U.S. Coast Guard over-flight of the NWHI on Wednesday March 23, 2010 allowed representatives from all PMNM co-trustee management agencies to survey resource damage. The photographs and information collected during the flight will help determine the best course of action for completing repairs and restoring ecosystems at each of the ten atolls and islands of the Monument. Additionally the Coast Guard C-130 landed at Midway Atoll to facilitate an on-ground inspection of damage there. Twelve U.S. Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources field camp workers and volunteers at Laysan Island and Kure Atoll were successfully evacuated and transported to Midway by NOAA research ship *Hi'ialakai*. All have since returned to Honolulu.

**What:** Media briefing regarding impacts and damage caused by the March 11, 2011 tsunami and information on clean-up and restoration plans.

**Who:** Interview availability with representatives of U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

**Where:** U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point (See attached driving directions)

**When:** Monday, March 28, 2011 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

(Video and photographs of the over-flight, photographs of damage and impacts will be distributed or available upon request)

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